

# Exhibit A

**CERTIFICATION**

I, George Hopkins, as Executive Director of Arkansas Teacher Retirement System (“ATRS”), hereby declare that:

1. I am authorized to make a certification on behalf of ATRS.
2. I have reviewed a complaint filed in this action alleging violations of the securities laws and ATRS is willing to serve as a lead plaintiff in this case and all other related cases that may be consolidated with it. I have also reviewed the motion for lead plaintiff and supporting papers filed herewith.
3. ATRS did not purchase the securities that are the subject of this action at the direction of the plaintiff's counsel or in order to participate in any private action arising under the federal securities laws.
4. ATRS is willing to serve as a representative party on behalf of a class, including providing testimony at deposition and trial if necessary. ATRS fully understands the duties and responsibilities of the Lead Plaintiff under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, specifically concerning its selection and retention of counsel and overseeing and directing the prosecution of the action on behalf of the class.
5. ATRS's transactions in Monsanto Company common stock during the proposed class period are set forth in Schedule A which is attached hereto.
6. ATRS has sought to serve and either was appointed or is waiting to be appointed as a lead plaintiff and representative party on behalf of a class in the following actions under the federal securities laws filed during the three-year period preceding the date of this Certification:
  - *In re Ambac Financial Group, Inc. Securities Litigation*, Case No. 08-cv-00411 (S.D.N.Y.)
  - *In re Schering-Plough Corp./Enhance Securities Litigation*, No. 2:08-cv-00397-DMC-MF (D.N.J.)

- *In re Colonial Bancgroup, Inc. Securities Litigation*, No. 2:09-cv-00104-MHT-WC (M.D. Ala.)
- *In re MGM Mirage Securities Litigation*, No. 2:09-cv-01558-RCJ-LRL (D. Nev.)
- *Plichta v. Sunpower Corporation, et al.*, No. 3:09-cv-05473-RS (N.D. Cal.)
- *City of Monroe Employees' Retirement System v. The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc., et al.*, No. 1:10-cv-02835-NRB (S.D.N.Y.)
- *Richman v. Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., et al.*, No. 1:10-cv-03461-PAC (S.D.N.Y.)

7. ATRS has sought to serve and was appointed as a lead plaintiff and representative party on behalf of a class in the following actions under the federal securities laws that have been settled during the three-year period preceding the date of this Certification:

- *Atlas, et al v. Accredited Home Lenders Holding Co., et al*, Case No. 07-cv-00488 (S.D. Cal.)
- *In re Openwave Systems Securities Litigation*, Case No. 07-cv-01309 (S.D.N.Y.)
- *In re SFBC International Inc. Securities & Derivative Litigation*, Case No. 06-cv-0165 (D.N.J.)
- *In re EVCI Career Colleges Holding Corp. Securities Litigation*, Case No. 05-cv-10240 (S.D.N.Y.)

8. ATRS will not accept any payment for serving as a representative party on behalf of a class beyond its pro-rata share of any recovery, except as ordered or approved by the court, including any award to a representative plaintiff of reasonable costs and expense directly related to the representation of the class.

9. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, executed on this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2010.

  
George Hopkins  
Executive Director, ATRS

TRANSACTION	TRADE DATE	QUANTITY	PRICE PER SHARE
BUY	2/11/2009	21,500	\$80.0181
BUY	2/25/2009	50,500	\$76.5521
BUY	4/8/2009	1,400	\$78.5089
BUY	4/20/2009	1,500	\$78.6740
BUY	5/5/2009	1,400	\$88.8690
BUY	5/7/2009	1,500	\$86.4558
BUY	5/11/2009	400	\$85.9042
BUY	5/11/2009	1,000	\$86.0250
BUY	5/12/2009	100	\$88.5800
BUY	5/12/2009	600	\$88.3793
BUY	5/12/2009	700	\$87.3680
BUY	5/13/2009	800	\$91.5321
BUY	5/13/2009	500	\$90.9059
BUY	5/15/2009	1,200	\$89.4868
BUY	5/15/2009	100	\$90.0136
BUY	5/27/2009	4,900	\$80.7291
BUY	5/28/2009	2,300	\$80.5812
BUY	6/10/2009	86,800	\$84.9558
BUY	6/25/2009	900	\$73.9601
BUY	6/26/2009	18,900	\$75.8926
BUY	7/1/2009	600	\$73.9337
BUY	7/7/2009	1,600	\$72.7437
BUY	7/15/2009	40,100	\$74.7000
BUY	7/15/2009	19,100	\$76.4600
BUY	7/21/2009	2,000	\$80.9258
BUY	7/21/2009	2,600	\$80.9633
BUY	7/21/2009	1,300	\$81.0811
BUY	7/21/2009	2,500	\$80.8837
BUY	10/2/2009	1,100	\$74.8097
BUY	10/2/2009	1,800	\$75.2394
BUY	1/27/2010	20,200	\$77.4735
BUY	1/27/2010	500	\$77.5750
BUY	1/27/2010	10,500	\$77.4708
BUY	1/27/2010	7,500	\$77.4746
BUY	1/28/2010	11,600	\$77.3263
BUY	1/28/2010	2,100	\$77.4505
BUY	1/29/2010	6,700	\$77.4329
BUY	2/3/2010	5,900	\$77.4158
BUY	2/3/2010	2,500	\$78.2704

BUY	2/5/2010	3,900	\$76.4339
BUY	2/5/2010	100	\$77.4469
BUY	2/5/2010	5,900	\$76.1755
BUY	2/5/2010	400	\$76.5960
BUY	2/17/2010	8,500	\$78.0256
BUY	2/19/2010	10,500	\$77.6680
BUY	2/23/2010	1,200	\$76.8396
BUY	2/23/2010	900	\$76.8898
BUY	2/25/2010	2,100	\$72.9258
BUY	2/26/2010	4,200	\$71.0036
BUY	3/1/2010	2,000	\$70.4916
BUY	3/11/2010	3,100	\$70.8502
BUY	3/18/2010	1,400	\$72.6356
BUY	3/18/2010	24,200	\$72.6560
BUY	3/23/2010	7,500	\$72.5136
BUY	3/26/2010	4,100	\$71.5498
BUY	4/5/2010	1,700	\$70.6059
BUY	4/5/2010	1,100	\$70.5100
BUY	4/5/2010	300	\$70.5100
BUY	4/5/2010	400	\$70.5487
BUY	4/5/2010	7,600	\$70.6059
BUY	4/5/2010	1,900	\$70.5487
BUY	4/7/2010	4,200	\$67.7204
BUY	4/7/2010	2,200	\$68.4266
BUY	4/14/2010	2,100	\$67.6214
BUY	4/15/2010	500	\$65.9923
BUY	4/15/2010	300	\$66.1134
BUY	4/15/2010	4,800	\$66.0003
BUY	4/15/2010	5,100	\$66.3034
BUY	4/16/2010	1,000	\$64.6002
BUY	4/16/2010	3,200	\$64.7695
BUY	4/29/2010	2,600	\$62.9401
BUY	4/30/2010	2,000	\$62.6420
BUY	5/10/2010	5,200	\$59.7143
BUY	5/27/2010	2,400	\$48.7628
SELL	2/27/2009	16,070	\$77.5725
SELL	4/2/2009	4,230	\$81.9219
SELL	4/20/2009	18,000	\$78.1732
SELL	4/21/2009	12,960	\$79.2254
SELL	4/22/2009	14,364	\$79.6936
SELL	4/23/2009	26,676	\$78.4335
SELL	5/22/2009	2,600	\$86.7126

SELL	5/27/2009	2,600	\$79.9286
SELL	5/29/2009	1,600	\$80.1299
SELL	6/9/2009	1,200	\$85.2041
SELL	6/9/2009	400	\$85.0665
SELL	6/12/2009	400	\$86.5308
SELL	6/12/2009	1,100	\$86.0985
SELL	6/24/2009	7,200	\$76.6877
SELL	7/15/2009	40,100	\$74.7000
SELL	7/21/2009	16,400	\$80.0000
SELL	7/27/2009	42,800	\$84.0000
SELL	8/5/2009	4,200	\$83.5618
SELL	10/21/2009	800	\$74.4392
SELL	10/21/2009	7,500	\$75.2723
SELL	10/21/2009	5,000	\$75.2556
SELL	10/22/2009	12,700	\$75.1667
SELL	10/22/2009	4,200	\$75.3357
SELL	3/2/2010	4,300	\$72.2284
SELL	5/13/2010	200	\$56.1965
SELL	5/13/2010	400	\$55.9278
SELL	5/13/2010	4,500	\$55.4164
SELL	5/13/2010	28,600	\$55.5605
SELL	5/13/2010	500	\$56.0347
SELL	5/14/2010	15,000	\$54.4764
SELL	5/19/2010	14,100	\$55.1159
SELL	5/20/2010	1,000	\$55.3606
SELL	5/20/2010	2,500	\$54.7778